

## Oyster River Cooperative School District

May 17, 2017

Moharimet School

6:30 p.m.

**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:** Denise Day, Dan Klein, Kenny Rotner, Maria Barth, Tom Newkirk, and Al Howland, Michael Williams (arrived at 8:00 p.m.)  
Student Representative: H. Wilson

**ADMINISTRATORS:** Superintendent Dr. James Morse, Sue Caswell, Todd Allen, Carrie Vaich, Catherine Plourde, Jay Richard, Dennis Harrington, and Suzanne Filiponne

There were nine members of the public present.

### **I. CALL TO ORDER:**

6:30 – 7:00 p.m. Manifest reviewed and signed.

Jay Richard mentioned the passing of Miles Goldberg, a student at the Middle School. He was a special person, a special student, and this is a loss to the community.

### **APPROVAL OF MANIFESTS:**

Payroll Manifest: #23 \$819,365.32  
Vendor Manifest #25: \$165,181.55

### **II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Tom Newkirk recommended moving UNH student Alexander Chase up on the agenda to follow the China presentation.

**Kenny Rotner moved to accept the agenda with the change as noted, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Klein. Motion passed 6-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.**

### **III. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

### **IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Motion to approve 5/3/17 regular meeting minutes:**

**Kenny Rotner moved to approve the May 3, 2017 regular meeting minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Klein. The motion passed 5-0-1 with Denise Day abstaining.**

### **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMENDATIONS and COMMENTS**

**A. District: ORMS Dave Ervin – China Trip Summary:** David Ervin reported to the Board on the China trip that the Orchestra was able to take during April vacation. The visit to historic places and the exchange of artistry and cultures was life changing. They visited and performed at Chengdu University, Longjiang Road Primary School of Chengdu No. 5 Primary School, Longquanyl District of Chengdu, and Chengdu DENT Dental Lab Co. Ltd.

Alana Ervin and Penny Brant performed a selection for the Board. David gave his most sincere thank you to Dr. Jie Du, UNH Confucius Institute co-director on behalf of Chengdu University in China.

**Other: UNH Student Alexander Chase reported on a Student Commuters Study:**

Student Commuters: Unpacking the Factors that influence how high school students travel to school

Research questions were on how do environmental concern, self-esteem and perceptions of safety and infrastructure predict high school student's transportation use?

The study and main findings: Questionnaire had 291 students from Oyster River and Newmarket High Schools

19.9% of students use active modes of transportation at least weekly

Newmarket active mode use: 30%

Oyster River active mode use: 14%

Students' Explanations: Why is there a disconnect between environmental concern and mode choice? They don't care...they probably think that they are only one person so "am I really going to make a big impact?"

Moving Forward:

Reduce barriers to moral action

Infrastructure investment: more green roads

Possible Ideas:

Walking or biking groups

Storage for belongings

Bike groups for children

**A. District Continued:**

Dennis Harrington of Moharimet reported that a group of staff started working last April to conduct a series of enrichment activities based on a theme of the arts. Dennis read a poem from a third grade Moharimet student.

Carrie Vaich of Mast Way wanted to thank everyone who helped with the May Fair. It was a community event. The Middle School Jazz Band performed and sounded spectacular. The NHS students from the high school came early and stayed late to clean up. They raised approximately \$9,000 which will go towards the playground.

Superintendent Morse attended the Strings Concert last week. The music was stunning and inspiring and the students ranged from 5<sup>th</sup> grade through the high school. The strings programs continues to grow.

**B. Board:** Denise Day commented on the evening when high school students talked and shared their experiences and their plans after high school. They had a lot of great insights on what has contributed to their education in the District.

Denise Day also discussed goal setting from the last Board meeting and wants to continue further on communication. We have made a lot of progress in the last year and want to look at every way possible to keep the community informed.

Kenny Rotner mentioned that Moharimet looks incredibly beautiful. The Chinese Trip was stunning and the program has blossomed. He also mentioned that Brendan Oxford has thrown three no hitters in a row for the baseball team and it an incredible feat.

## **VI. DISTRICT REPORTS:**

### **A. Assistant Superintendent: None**

### **B. Superintendent's Report:**

Superintendent Morse mentioned the merger of ORBDA with the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 877 AFL-CIO. He is looking forward to working with them in relation to the drivers.

**ORHS 1.0 fte Teacher Breakdown:** Suzanne Filippone did a student survey regarding this open position for next year at the high school and there is an extraordinary interest in wellness, nutrition and culinary arts.

**Elementary Enrollment:** Superintendent Morse is recommending an additional combined grade classroom of 1/2 position at Mast Way. At the last Board meeting, the Board approved an additional Kindergarten position. The funding for the combined classroom would be coming from special education funding that had freed up and some grant funding that can be used.

**Al Howland authorized a combined grade 1 and 2 position at Mast Way, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Klein. Motion passed 6-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.**

The Kindergarten classes at Mast Way is within two students of being at full capacity and if there are additional Kindergarten students that enroll they will be moved to Moharimet.

**Special Education Position Update:** Catherine Plourde spoke to the Board. Some funding and costs for contracted services came in a little lower than expected. She is asking to reallocate funding to: ESOL services at Moharimet assistant technology specialist.

**Denise Day moved to approve the above changes as described, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Klein. Motion passed 6-0 with the Student Representative abstaining.**

**C. Business Administrator:** None

**D. Student Senate:**

Student Representative Hannah Wilson reported that last night was NHS induction. It was great to see all the inductees. The World Language Honor Society induction is later this month. The Prom will be this Saturday at the Rivermill in Dover. May 21 is Power of One and will be a great evening. May 31<sup>st</sup> is the Senior Art Show from 5-7 in the multipurpose room. May 25-28 is the musical "Into the Woods." She also reported that the juniors took the Science NECAPS this week. There is 23 days until graduation.

**E. Other: UNH Report out** -Moved to beginning of meeting.

**VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**Draft 20107-18 Master Schedule of School Board Meetings:** Denise Day is concerned about only one meeting scheduled in September. Superintendent Morse thinks that one meeting will probably be okay, but can change the manifest meeting that month to a regular meeting if needed.

Maria Barth is very concerned that there are many religious holidays that could impact our schedule. I don't it's appropriate to adjust for religious reasons. If we are starting to schedule meetings around holidays, then the District needs to schedule events around all holidays.

**Denise Day moved to accept the calendar as presented tonight, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kenny Rotner. Motion passed 6-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.**

**Last Day of School for 2016-2017 School Year: Kenny Rotner moved to have the last day of school be Friday, June 23 as an early dismissal day,**

**2<sup>nd</sup> by Al Howland. Motion passed 6-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.**

**Middle School Competency Report Card:**

Jay Richard of the Middle School presented to the Board the implementation plan for competency based reporting in the Middle School:

Grades 6 and 7 will implement the proposed reporting system in the 2017-2018 school year.

The District will use appropriate communication outlets to inform parents of this change and its rationale.

During the implementation year, the District will use multiple approaches to evaluating this change which will include: a) surveys of parents to determine if they find the reporting system informative and technologically accessible; b) surveys of students to determine if they find it informative and appropriate in terms of incentives; and c) focus groups of 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents who can describe their experiences with the new reporting system.

At the conclusion of 2017-18, the administration will report to the Board on this evaluation and adjustments that need to be made.

During 2017-2018 the 8<sup>th</sup> grade core teachers (ELA, SS and Science) will continue with the current grading system, at their option, consistent with the current high school approach. It is further understood that the 8<sup>th</sup> grade staff will fully participate with their middle school peers in all competency work including aligning assessment, reporting and professional development.

To create as smooth a transition as possible between the middle school and the high school, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be knowledgeable of and participate when appropriate in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade work related to competencies.

They discussed that this year for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be getting the teachers on board with how the transition is going to work between the middle school and high school. What does a competency and grade transition system look like?

Maria Barth feels that getting parents to buy into this will be the tricky part. Denise Day supports grades 6 and 7 switching over and to look at grade 8 for the following year. Jay Richard noted that there are some 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers who are ready to do competency reporting. Tom Newkirk is concerned about

the dual system and would like to look at how different schools are doing it. 8<sup>th</sup> grade to align with the high school ultimately. Denise Day's issue with the dual system is that the competencies have not been defined yet to translate into grades.

Kenny Rotner feels that competency grading system will let kids focus on what they need to learn, not what they need to do to get an A.

The Board had a lengthy discussion on how the competency translates into the grade or number that translates into the high school system?

Superintendent Morse talked about working on a bridge year to work with 9<sup>th</sup> grade on what would a high school grade look like in a competency world. His recommendation is to give the 8<sup>th</sup> grade the transition year to work on a competency system with grading.

Suzanne Filippone noted that the high school is looking at calibrating the assessments together and will be visiting schools like Bedford that have hybrid systems. This will allow them to dig deeper into it to see how it will impact transcripts.

**Kenny Rotner moved to approve the above implementation plan for competency based reporting in the middle school keeping 1-4 and 6 the same and amending the first line of 5 to read: "During 2017-18 the 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers will continue with the current grading system practices", 2<sup>nd</sup> by Denise Day. Motion passed 7-0 with the Student Representative voting in the affirmative.**

Michael Williams would like to see a 4-point competency instead of three. Superintendent Morse replied that he would as well but the teachers have overwhelmingly voted to have a 3-point. At some point a 4-point may be looked at.

#### **VIII. ACTIONS:**

**A. Superintendent Actions:** None

**B. Board Action Items:**

**Motion to approve ORHS Overnight field trip. Al Howland moved to approve the ORHS Overnight Field Trip to National History Day University of Maryland 6/12 – 6/15, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Denise Day. Motion passed 6-0.**

**Motion to approve the nominations for the 2017-2018 School Year:**

Brittany Morley	School Psychologist
Melissa Gianino	Special Education
Caroline Hird	Grade 5
Laurenne Ramsdell	Grade 7 Language Arts
Kimberly Beidleman	Grade 8 Language Arts

**Kenny Rotner moved to approve the nominations for the 2017-2018 School Year, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Klein. Motion passed 6-0.**

**Motion to approve list of Policies:**

**Kenny Rotner moved to approve Policies DKA Payroll Process and DKC Expense Reimbursement and Form for a first reading, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Denise Day. Motion passed 7-0.**

**Kenny Rotner moved to approve DK and R Payment Manifest and Manifest Procedure for a first reading 2<sup>nd</sup> by Denise Day. Motion passed 5-2 with Maria Barth and Michael Williams opposing.**

Maria Barth feels that a quorum is the Board's due diligence on manifest review is very important. Al Howland, Kenny Rotner and Dan Klein question whether a quorum is necessary to review the manifests.

**Kenny Rotner moved to approve Policy IJOA/R and R1- Field Trip and Excursions/Procedure/Voluntary Permission for a first reading 2<sup>nd</sup> by Denise Day. Motion passed 7-0.**

**IX. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

Denise Day reported that the Long Range Planning Committee is meeting 5/24 and will be looking at the elementary schools.

Tom Newkirk reported that the Wellness Committee met last week. There will be a sleep survey over the next week. Emotional wellness was also discussed.

Superintendent Morse reported that the Sustainability Committee met to discuss goals for next year.

**X. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**XI. CLOSING ACTIONS:**

**A. Future Meeting Dates:** 6/7/17 and 6/21/17 ORHS Library

Maria Barth said that they touched on two values tonight that are very important to her: religion and the constitution. She handed in her resignation to the Board Chair.

**XII. NON-PUBLIC SESSION: RSA 91-A:3 II (if needed)**  
**NON-MEETING SESSION: RSA 91-A2 (if needed)**

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT:**

**Al Howland moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m., 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Klein.  
Motion passed 7-0.**

Respectfully yours,

Laura Grasso Dobson  
Recording Secretary